

Let's look at South Carolina, for example. Under this bill, federal childcare programs would be consolidated into a State block grant that would cut \$31 million in Federal funds to the State over five years—meaning that over 5,000 fewer children would receive Federal childcare assistance that year. When are they going to realize that affordable and reliable childcare is a major factor in a single mother's ability to find and keep a job?

Also, another crucial factor in getting welfare recipients to work and in keeping them working, is income. We can not realistically expect a working mother to be able to take care of a family while only earning minimum wage. If we are going to require welfare recipients to go to work, why not require that these jobs provide a liveable wage so that working moms may be able to sustain themselves and their families?

And although this is a separate issue, if you look at the fact that a single mom stands to lose Medicaid benefits for themselves and their children in lieu of a low-paying job with no health benefits, it would make more sense to stay on welfare.

Mr. Speaker, I have long been an advocate of welfare reform. But I support realistic and humane welfare reform—one that includes programs that will train current recipients for real jobs; one that addresses the real need for reliable and affordable day care; and one that take into consideration the need for real wages so that these recipients can become self-supporting, productive members of society.

ILLEGITIMACY AND REDUCTION OF POVERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, tonight we are talking about welfare, and the reason we are talking about welfare is that H.R. 4 is on the floor and for the first time in 40 years we are going to undertake to reform a failed system.

How do we know that this system has failed? Well, first of all, I suppose we know because there is acclamation on the point. I do not think anybody is arguing it. But, besides that, what we can do is look at certain indicia of whether or not it is a success. What have we done, what have we gotten after 35 years of great society?

Well, what we have gotten is we have spent about \$5.3 trillion on welfare since the early 1960s, \$5.3 trillion. Have we reduced poverty in that time? No, we have not reduced poverty. In fact, what we have found is that poverty was coming down year by year by year by year, right from the beginning of this century to the late 1950s and early 1960s, and since we have been throwing money at the problem in tremendous amounts poverty has leveled off and stayed flat.

But the amount of money that we have thrown at the problem has increased and increased and increased and increased by any measure, by measure of nominal dollars, current year dollars or by measure of percentage of Gross Domestic Product. In fact, when you measure by Gross Domestic Product, we have increased the amount from about less than 1 percent of GDP to nearly 4 percent of GDP that we are spending on welfare.

What have we gotten? Have we reduced poverty? No, we have not reduced poverty. What have we done? Well, we have found that we are in a situation with respect to illegitimacy that is truly alarming, truly alarming because it has more impact, it has more implications for what will happen in the 21st century than any other social challenge that we face.

Let us look at numbers for a minute. First of all, we know that in the minority community among blacks two out of every three births is now out of wedlock. For all those people that think this is a problem that is somehow only in the minority community, let me tell you that is absolutely wrong. One out of four white babies is now born illegitimate. Fully one out of three of all births in this country is now illegitimate.

What do we know will happen with respect to kids who grow up in single-parent homes? Well, we know that welfare has failed children more than anyone. It is the cruelest thing that we could be doing to our children.

□ 2030

We know it for a number of reasons. First of all, children in families which are dependent on AFDC for prolonged periods have more developmental problems than children dependent for shorter periods. Sixty-nine percent of children in chronically dependent welfare families score in the bottom third of all children on vocabulary and language skill tests. The source on that is the Life Circumstances and Development of Children in Welfare Families, a profile based on national survey data in the Child Trends Magazine.

We also know being raised in a family dependent on welfare dramatically reduces a child's intellectual abilities and life prospects. Researchers from Baruch College in New York City studied the effects of being raised in a welfare family on the intellectual abilities of children aged three to six. Children on welfare do worse in school, they tend to have other developmental problems, they are three times more likely to end up on welfare themselves. And teenage girls who grow up in fatherless families are far more likely to have early intercourse, pregnancies and abortions than those from two parent families.

What kind of perverse and cruel form of compassion would encourage children to have children? And then condemn them to a dead end cycle of government dependency? What could pos-

sible be more cruel to children than this failed system?

We could not have consciously designed a more destructive system than the one that we currently have. And that is what perplexes me the most about how it is that liberals are defending this system.

What you hear from my friends on the other side of the aisle is well, yes, we need reform, but. It reminds me of the "me too, but" disease, where you say "Yes, we are going to fix this now. We didn't bother for the past 30 years, even though we have been in control of this place for the past 40 years. But now we agree with you, we need to fix this, we need to have reform, but."

Then you start to equivocate and change and not come up with the real reforms that in fact will do the two things that we must do in order to restore some sort of confidence in a welfare system that will actually help people, to give them dignity. And those two things are to encourage marriage and to encourage work.

NUMBERS OF CHILDREN AND SCHOOL LUNCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last night, we showed how the Republicans are playing a shell game with the Nation's child nutrition programs. We illustrated that the Republicans would rob Peter to pay Paul in order to support programs, such as school lunch, school breakfast, and WIC. Tonight, no games—just the sad, sorry truth.

The truth is if the Republican welfare reform proposal is enacted, thousands of children in this country will lose their access to a nutritious school lunch. The number I am placing on this map tonight represents the 3,600 children in my homestate of Connecticut who will be dropped from the School Lunch Program under the Republican proposal—and that's in the first year alone. The Republican plan cuts funding for school lunch and by doing so it cuts kids. The Republican plan takes money away from programs, like school lunch, which are efficient, effective, and working to keep our kids healthy and productive, for one reason and one reason only—to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

This is the truth. This is why the Republican welfare proposal must be defeated. I urge my colleagues to look at this map and contemplate the horror of these numbers. These numbers represent children—children who need our help and who are relying on us to do the right thing. I urge my colleagues to remember their needs when the time comes to cast this important vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ].

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing an assault on the